

**Minutes of the OS&R Committee Meeting
Monday, Dec 14 2015, at 7:30 PM
Town Hall Annex**

Members in attendance: Stephanie Cunningham (SC), Lawrence Neal (LN), Ted Tarr (TT), Peter Van Demark (PV)

Members absent: None

Guest in attendance:
Jim McCarthy

730PM Meeting called to order

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by PV seconded by TT to approve the October 19, 2015 minutes as amended. The motion passed on a 4/0 vote.

Open Discussion:

Jim McCarthy is considering volunteer time to town recreation activities. He has started to attend meetings of related groups and committees to see the choices for participation. We explained our mandate and the other recreation town organizations as we understand them. We gave him the name of the head of recreation department to contact.

Discussion on Land Protection:

Discussed the current activities. They all continue to move along, but none have come to resolution yet. This includes Essex County Green Belt's (ECGA) work with the land owner to complete the final approval of Conservation Restriction on several acres of land along Farm Way including public passage on Farm Way. They continue efforts to outline an agreement with the land owner that would lead to the purchase and protection Woodland Acres. Woodland Acres is a state-designated Core natural habitat area.

The DPW and the Town Administrator's office are working with a land owner to purchase watershed land. Negotiations are near agreement, with the town finances in place to purchase land. Also, Cape Ann Trails is working with the ConCom to add kiosks with trail maps for town land on Thomas Way at Waring field and in the Pine Pit parking area at the head of the quarry rail way.

Presentation on the "Importance and value of Protecting Open Space":

We are expecting the presentation in early part of next year. ECGA is working to conclude some of the agreements they are working on and to discuss them at the presentation. ConCom continues to outline the agenda.

OSR Plan Review:

Plan needs to be updated by end of 2016. Target is to have it ready for public meetings and move to approval end of first quarter of 2016.

Next meeting will focus on our committee's impression of the most used trails and areas most in need for protection. Goal is to establish 5 – 10 targets places for protection.

GIS and Trail Mapping:

PV discussed his recent walk along Atlantic Path from Andrews Point trail along Hoop Pole Cove to Halibut Point State Park. In the area near the waterfront properties of Andrews Hollow, found the inland trail to be so overgrown that he could not walk on it. Also there are ground water run off areas across the trail that are becoming more difficult to pass over. We will pass this information on to ROW Committee.

SC has found someone that used the trail from Kelley Road up to the landfill in their youth and is willing to help identify the past path route it took.

Also she has made contact with a person involved with Boxford trails. They had found grant money to use for trail clearing and maintenance. She found it is not a town government group but a private organization. SC looked at their web site has a page/form to report trail maintenance needs and related suggestions. A second form allows you to volunteer to join the organization. They identify a list of work needed from administrative focused to trail clearing.

The trail from "Kelley's Road" to transfer station flooded and still not found. LN spoke with a past heavy users' family and they will mark trail best they can remember, so that it can be considered for reestablishing.

SC has tried to contact the Boxford Trail Association about grants and CPA funding used for trail clearing. She has not received a call back from that trail Association.

LN showed the latest list of town Open Space listed on GIS. List was done by DPW IT and will distribute to committee.

Next Actions on OSR Plan:

Committee will establish our understanding trail quality and usage so that data can be added trail map.

Future Meeting Dates and Topics:

Next meeting: Jan 2016. Continue work towards a short list of private parcels for protection. Meeting at Town Hall Annex.

Meeting topic could be how to best display trail info in relation to new web site. Photos of locations to emphasize, trail maps at parking locations? How to best use new web site?

Motion to Adjourn: 9:41PM PV motioned to adjourn, TT seconded. Vote passed 4/0

These minutes prepared by LN